

**RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS
OF THE UTILITY ADVISORY COMMISSION
GARDNER, KANSAS
Page No. 2021-13
June 3, 2021**

The Utilities Advisory Commission of Gardner, Kansas, met in Regular Session on June 3, 2021, at City Hall. Present were Chairperson Kristina Harrison, Vice-Chairperson Jake Wells, Commissioner Gary Williams, Commissioner Barbara Coleman, Utilities Department Director Gonzalo Garcia, Staff Engineer Ric Gere and Administrative Assistant Erin Groh. Commissioner Bryce Augustine was not in attendance.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Chairperson Kristina Harrison.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Standing approval of the minutes as written for the May 6, 2021, meeting of the Utility Advisory Commission.**

Motion by Commissioner Coleman, seconded by Vice-Chair Wells, to approve the Consent Agenda.

Motion carried 4-0 Aye

NEW BUSINESS

- 1. Consider a recommendation to the City to award a five year service contract to Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$55,000.00 per year, for five years for the 2021-2025 Electric Line Clearance Tree Trimming Program.**

Director Garcia presented the staff report. Beginning in 2010, the city implemented a tree trimming program. This was due to having several outages due to tree limbs. During the past few years, the city has had a four year contract for tree trimming so in order to make it a little more efficient, staff would like to make it a five year contract. Seven companies requested bid documents after an Invitation to Bid was posted and only one company submitted a bid, which was Asplundh. The city has had a contract with Asplundh for the past eight years or so. The area that is trimmed around town rotates every year.

Motion by Commissioner Coleman, seconded by Vice-Chair Wells, to forward the recommendation to the City Council to award a five year service contract to Asplundh Tree Expert, LLC in an amount not to exceed \$55,000.00 per year, for five years for the 2021-2025 Electric Line Clearance Tree Trimming Program.

Motion carried 4-0 Aye

- 2. Consider a recommendation to the City Council to award a contract for the 2021 Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP) Rehabilitation project for the amount of \$399,516.50.**

Director Garcia presented the staff report. After an I&I (Inflow & Infiltration) study, it was determined that currently the most issues are on the public side and not many on the private side. In order to address the public issues (from cracks, fractures, offsets, broken sections in pipe), staff did an Invitation for Bids for Cured in Place Pipe in which you can coat or line the interior of the pipe, instead of having to dig the pipe

out, which is a much more effective way. Utilities received five bids and after staff reviewed bids and evaluated contractors, staff selected SAK. The bid was for \$399,516.50. Utilities has \$600,000 this year to do repairs related to I&I.

Ric Gere, Utilities Staff Engineer answered some questions that commissioners had. Commissioner Williams asked what is lined in the pipe and Gere responded that it is lined with a poly-resin felt and is inverted with air or water and then cured with steam or hot water. It takes a clay pipe and makes it more like a new PVC pipe. Gere said you may lose a small amount of diameter in the pipe but it will increase the flow. The design life is approximately 50-60 years. Chair Harrison asked what the timeframe is to complete the work and Commissioner Coleman said that it is 60 days per the contract. Gere said SAK is hoping to be done by the end of August depending on weather. Vice-Chair Wells asked if this effort is for a certain targeted area and Gere responded that this work will take place in the Big Bull Creek 2 sub-basin which is a high-priority area.

Motion by Commissioner Coleman, seconded by Vice-Chair Wells, to forward the recommendation to the City Council to award SAK Construction, LLC for the 2021 Cured in Place Pipe (CIPP) Rehabilitation contract in the amount not to exceed the amount of \$399,516.50.

Motion carried 4-0 Aye

3. Consider a recommendation to the City Council implement a Utility Rebate Program.

Director Garcia presented the staff report. In 2010, the city offered a program to new residents where they could get a set of LED light bulbs at City Hall with the incentive of conserving energy. In 2017, the UAC asked if there was any programs that the city sponsored so Garcia did some research and at that time there wasn't a program that the city was offering. At that time the UAC didn't take any action to start a program. After extensive discussion with the UAC about starting a rebate program in 2020, Garcia researched some different program ideas like thermostats, LED bulbs, smart power strips and water irrigation controllers. Garcia recently contacted Home Depot and Ace Hardware to see if they would want to partner with Gardner on a rebate program. Both companies are willing to work with the city and so Garcia stated he would like to get a buy-in from City Council before more details are worked out on the program. At the May 6 UAC meeting it was discussed by Garcia that after talking with Home Depot and Ace Hardware that thermostats and LED bulbs would be what the rebate program should probably start with. Garcia would like to request from Council that \$25,000 be used from the Electric fund and \$7,500 from the Water fund.

Motion by Vice-Chair Wells, seconded by Commissioner Coleman, to forward a recommendation to the City Council to authorize implementing a pilot Utility Rebate Program for 2021 to be funded by the Electric Fund in the amount of \$25,000 and by the Water fund in the amount of \$7,500.

Motion carried 4-0 Aye

PROJECT UPDATES

Director Garcia gave a brief update of the Hillsdale Water Treatment Plant Expansion and said that they had a progress meeting earlier in the day and substantial completion will be on June 24th. By that date water will be able to be produced in the new expansion. Currently the water usage is 2.8 million gallons per day.

Wells asked if the city plans to allow residents to look at data from the smart meters on an app. Garcia said that there was a new type of software that Nexgrid implemented and so it should be ready in the next couple months, possibly end of June or early July. Wells asked how often the data read is. Garcia said that for water it is every 4-5 hours and for electric the read is every 15 minutes.

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Coleman asked where the city is at with installing the water meters. Garcia said that we are 40% done installing them. Coleman asked where the city is at with recovering from the \$5.6 million bill from the energy crisis. Garcia said that a PCA (Power Cost Adjustment) has been implemented. Electric consumers are paying 2.8 per kWh more per month and that's to recover that cost difference that customers had to pay for that cold snap. Over a period of one year, the city should be able to recover that cost difference.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Commissioner Williams, seconded by Vice-Chair Wells, to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m.

Motion carried 4-0 Aye

/s/ Erin Groh

Utilities Department Administrative Assistant